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We have connected Professor Eliot's name with Mr. Worcester's, not because their minds or works have other than the most remote kindred, but because the one promises, though in a very different way, to perform for the coming the service rendered by the other to the passing generation, — that of adding facility and delight to the study of history. Mr. Eliot's "*History of the United States*" is a work entirely *sui generis*. It is constructed by no plan, on no scale, with reference to no theory. He has simply written the record of his country's life-time as it lay in his own mind, giving prominence to those points that most interested him, passing cursorily over events and epochs to which he was comparatively indifferent, never suppressing his own opinion or judgment, and marking not alone the nation's material progress, but its growth in art and literature, in the institutions that adorn and the charities that bless the state. Because Mr. Eliot is a man of taste and culture, pure principles and generous sympathies, — a man, too, alive in the present, and with a hopeful face turned to the future, — the story lay in his mind in just the form in which we would be glad to have it transferred to the minds of our youth. The work is not ostensibly a school-book, and its most obvious destination is for the reading public; but we know of no manual of United States history, that, for a college or a high-school class, could so effectively guide the instructions of a competent, stimulate the energy of a dull, or supply the deficiencies of an inadequate teacher.

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20. — *Message of the President of the United States, communicating the Proceedings of the Commissioners for the Adjustment of Claims under the Convention of February 8th, 1853, between the United States and Great Britain.* Washington. 1856. 8vo. pp. 478.

THIS is by far the most important public document of the year, — we might almost say, of the age; for it records the successful installation of a new principle of international administration, — of a principle too that is full of promise for the peace of the civilized world. From the date of the treaty of Ghent, there had been an accumulation of causes of controversy between Great Britain and the United States, most of them growing out of such pecuniary claims as could be fairly decided only by a judicial process, and such as would have been promptly and satisfactorily decided, had there existed a court of competent jurisdiction. These claims were the subjects of complex and costly negotiations, were bruited in angry Parliamentary and Congressional speeches, furnished ready fuel for whatever embers of international hostility

smouldered on either hearth, and were often, by reckless demagogues and parties on the race for popular favor, represented as furnishing adequate causes for war. In fine, they were both annoying and dangerous. Mr. Secretary Everett, during his brief administration of the Department of State, suggested the appointment of a joint commission to take cognizance of these cases, and, a short time before his retirement from office, a convention to that effect was entered into between the two governments. The commission consisted of Nathaniel G. Upham, late Justice of the Superior Court of New Hampshire, on the part of the United States, and Edmund Hornby, on the part of Great Britain. They met at London on the 15th of September, 1853, and chose Joshua Bates of London as umpire in case of their disagreement. John A. Thomas appeared before them as solicitor on the part of the United States, James Hannen in behalf of Great Britain and her subjects. The claims offered for adjudication exceeded one hundred in number, and involved several millions of dollars; but in less than a year and a half the docket was cleared, and appropriations were promptly made by Parliament and by Congress for the liquidation of such claims as had been held valid. As we have intimated, this commission marks an epoch in history; it demonstrates the feasibility of what a few years ago was regarded as the fond dream of weak philanthropists, a High Court or Congress of nations; and among Mr. Everett's numerous claims upon enduring gratitude, the time will come when none will take precedence of his services in creating the commission whose labors this volume records.

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21. — *Contributions to the Early History of Perth Amboy and Adjoining Country, with Sketches of Men and Events in New Jersey during the Provincial Era.* By WILLIAM A. WHITEHEAD. With Maps and Engravings. New York: D. Appleton and Co. 1856. 8vo. pp. 428.

THE title of this book conveys but a very faint idea of the interest and importance of its contents. Perth Amboy was long the seat of the Provincial government of New Jersey, and its annals were for many years virtually those of the Colony. It was the residence of several royal governors, among whom were William Burnet, Francis Bernard, and William Franklin. Mr. Whitehead has made the history of his little city the nucleus for a large and various collection of political, ecclesiastical, and biographical details, many of them of no local or brief moment. He is a zealous antiquary, an indefatigable seeker in his de-